

REMARKS

Claims 1-26 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 6, 18 and 21-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 3,788,180 (hereinafter, "Potsch") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,275,631 (hereinafter, "Wingen"). Claims 8-14 are withdrawn. Claim 1-5, 7, 15-17, 19, 20 and 24-26 are allowed. Applicants submits the following in traversal.

Rejection of Claims 6, 18 and 21-23 under §103(a) over Potsch in view of Wingen

Applicant submits that claim 6 is patentable over Potsch in view of Wingen because the combination of references fail to disclose the irregularity quantity (G) being substantially along a radial direction of the disk-shaped rotary blade **perpendicular to a rotational axis** of the disk-shaped rotary blade, in combination with other elements of the claim.

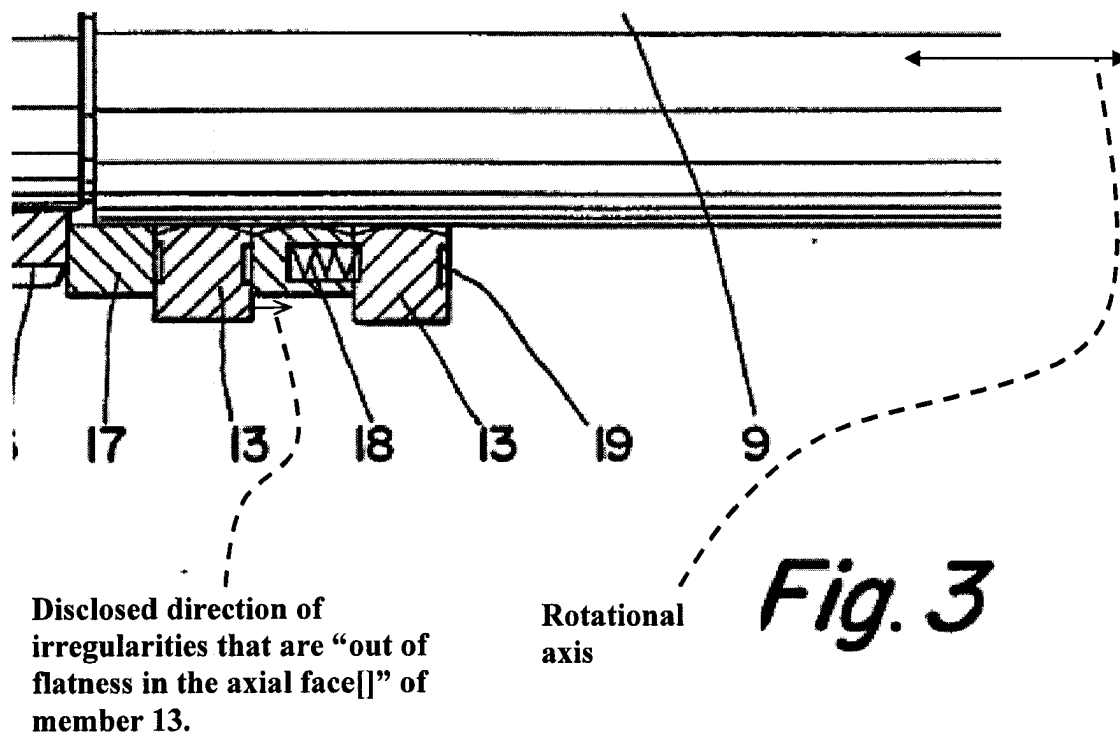
In the Office Action, the Examiner states that column 4, lines 6-10 of Wingen teaches the above features of claim 6. Applicant respectfully disagrees. The cited sections of Wingen disclose:

This allows limited tilting movement in somewhat of a universal manner of the knife members 13 and the spacer ring 14 relative to the shaft 15 for **accommodating irregularities and [sic] out of flatness in the axial faces** of these members.

In other words, Wingen discloses accommodating irregularities which are roughly in a direction perpendicular to the axial faces, and thus, roughly **parallel to the axial direction**. This aspect of Wingen "allows the knife members 13 and the spacer ring 14 to be clamped axially

against one another even though the central mounting hole therethrough may not be perfectly perpendicular to the flat end faces thereof.” Col. 4, lines 11-14.

A portion of Fig. 3 of Wingen with clarifying annotations is shown below. The annotations show the direction of the irregularities being parallel to the rotational axis.



In contrast, claim 6 recites being **perpendicular to a rotational axis**, and thus, the irregularity quantity (G) is not disclosed by Wingen, and thus, claim 6 is patentable.

Claims 18 and 21-23, which depend from claim 6, are patentable for at least the reasons submitted for claim 6.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
Application No.: 09/843,765

Attorney Docket No.: Q63763

Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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August 6, 2007